

CITY OF IOLA  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION INFORMATION  
NOVEMBER 2005

- 1) How did the contamination occur? The contamination resulted from the operations of the United Zinc Smelter located in Iola Kansas. Most of the contamination remains on the old site. **Isolated areas in adjacent neighborhoods are also impacted.**
- 2) Where is the contamination located? The general area impacted by the contamination is located in an area East of Kentucky Street, South of Willow Drive, North of Neosho Street and West of Kansas Drive.
- 3) What are the contaminants? Soil samples were taken to evaluate the levels of Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead and Zinc. Elevated levels of Arsenic and Lead were discovered in the soil. **Lead is the predominant contaminant identified at the site.**
- 4) How long has the contamination been there? The contamination has been there for over **80** years.
- 5) Who is responsible for cleaning up the contamination? Ultimately **the parties responsible for operation** of United Zinc are responsible for the clean up. **However, a responsible party has not been identified by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). All parties are either defunct or bankrupt and no cooperative successor was identified.** As a result, KDHE in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have agreed to address the site.
- 6) Who will pay for the clean up? It is anticipated that KDHE in conjunction with the EPA will be funding the clean up. **Current property owners at the site would be expected to allow access and cooperate during the clean up activities.**
- 7) When will the clean up occur? **Depending of the availability of funding, the clean up is projected to begin sometime in the second half of 2006.**
- 8) How will the clean up take place? **The cleanup plan has not been designed but will likely involve the removal and replacement of all contaminated soil in both the residential and commercial neighborhoods. Contaminated soils will likely be consolidated in a common area and capped with future land use restrictions.**
- 9) Are people in immediate danger? People are not in immediate danger; the contamination has been in place for many years.
- 10) McKinley Elementary School is also impacted – are the children at risk if they attend school? Children should continue to attend school and are not in any immediate danger.

How can I get additional information? You may contact the following individuals:

Rick Bean  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
785-296-1675

